Hawala Transactions

1157. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a statement made by the then Minister for Environment as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' of March 24, 1996 in which he has said that since the constitution of Vohra Committee on criminalisation of politics there has been an inflow of Rs. 60 thousand crores into India as a result of the smuggling of narcotics and mafia and hawala activities;

(b if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Minister has also said that the politicians should declare their assets and the system of political contribution should be made transparent; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far on these matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). There is no information with the Government to substantiate the statement reported to have been made by the then Minister for Environment.

(c) and (d). The Ministry of Finance has no comment on the political views of a Minister. The Income Tax Act and the Wealth Tax Act apply to every person.

Closure of Distillery Branch of Cawnpore Sugar Works Limited

1158. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Marhowrah Distillery Branch of the Cawnpore Sugar Works Limited is closed since 1992;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the closure of the distillery has caused huge loss of revenue to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to restart the distillery?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). The Marhowrah Distillery Plant of Cawnpore Sugar Works Limited has been lying closed since March, 1992, under instruction of the Pollution Control Board as the distillery does not have an Effluent Treatment Plant.

(c) and (d). At the time of closure, the Company was contributing revenue to the extent of Rs.3.84 crores to the State Government and Rs. 0.08 crores to the Central Government.

(e) Since Cawnpore Sugar Works Limited is not a Government Company no proposal has been prepared by the Government regarding restart of the Marhowrah Distilllery.

[English]

Weekly Holidays in Banks

1159. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to advise all banks to observe their weekly off uniformly i.e. on Sundays and open their banks on half-days on the days when the markets in their areas observe weekly holiday; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India and Indian Banks' Association have reported that at present they have no proposal in this regard. However, individual banks decide about the weekly-off in their branches based on the location of the branch, business potential, customer needs, etc. and advice, if any, of the State Government.

World Bank Loan

1160. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects for which loans have been sanctioned by the World Bank alongwith the amount of loans during each of the last three years; and

(b) the time by which the loan amount is likely to be received for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The number of projects for which loans have been sanctioned by the World Bank alongwith the amount of loans/credits during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as follows :-

(In US $ M)

Year	Number of Projects	Amount
1993-94	10	1111.25
1994-95	09	1913.98
1995-96	07	1369.10

(b) These projects are already being implemented and receipt of assistance from the World Bank depends on the pace of expenditure on project implementation. The entire amount of assistance is targetted to be received by the close of the project cycle which is normally 5 to 7 years.